

**REMARKS**

In the Action, claims 12, 15 and 16 are rejected, claims 1-11 are allowed, and claims 13, 14 and 17 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The present amendment amends claims 12 and 15, and adds new claim 18 to depend from claim 12. Specifically, claim 12 is amended to clarify the coupling between the hinge protrusion and the first and second hinge holes. Claim 15 is amended to correct a minor clerical error. New claim 18 is added to depend from claim 12 to recite a button mounted on one of the side hinge arms in a manner similar to the button recited in original claim 1. Accordingly, these amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

**Rejection of Claims 12, 15 and 16**

Claims 12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,996,178 to Murray in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,387 to Han. Murray is cited for allegedly disclosing each of the claimed feature including a folder, a terminal, hinge housing, a protrusion and cam member. Han is cited for disclosing a housing containing the hinge components to form a self-contained hinge device. The rejection is based on the position that it would be obvious to modify the device of Murray to support the hinge assembly within a center arm.

The art of record either standing alone or in combination does not disclose or suggest the claimed features as recited in claim 12 as amended. The Action refers to the Y-shaped socket of Murray and the Y-shaped protrusion on the cam member as corresponding to the claimed hinge holes and protrusion. The Action further suggests that the Y-shaped socket can be selectively coupled with the Y-shaped protrusion.

As amended, claim 12 recites that the hinge protrusion is mounted on the hinge protrusion for selectively coupling with one of the first and second hinge holes. Claim 12 further recites that the hinge dummy fixed to the inner surface of one of the side hinge arms includes first and second radially extending hinge holes where the first and second hinge holes cross each other at an angle on the first rotation axis. The Y-shaped socket of Murray includes three slots extending outwardly from the center portion of the member. Thus, the three slots of Murray begin at the center point and extend radially outward, but do not intersect as in the claimed invention. The ends of the slots forming the Y-shaped socket begin at the center point of the axis but do not intersect. Furthermore, the Y-shaped protrusion of Murray is not selectively coupled to one of the slots as recited in amended claim 12. Regardless of the axial orientation of the Y-shaped protrusion of Murray, the Y-shaped protrusion is received in each of the spokes of the Y-shaped socket. Therefore, Murray does not disclose or suggest the protrusion being selectively received in one of the slots.

Han is cited for disclosing a hinge housing containing the hinge components. Han also fails to disclose a hinge assembly having a protrusion that is selectively received in one of two intersecting slots. Therefore, the combination of Murray and Han do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Furthermore, the combination of Murray and Han provide no motivation or incentive to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the structures to include intersecting slots having a protrusion that can be selectively received in one of the slots. Accordingly, claim 12 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

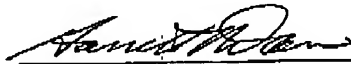
Claims 13-18 depending from claim 12 are also allowable for disclosing additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record in combination with the features of claim 12. For example, the combination of the cited art does not disclose a hinge assembly where the hinge protrusion is coupled to the first hinge hole of the hinge dummy to accumulate a rotating force to cause the folder to close as in claim 15, or

the hinge protrusion being coupled to the second hinge hole where the folder rotates and is opened perpendicular to the terminal body where the cam portions of the hinge shaft engage each other and prevent rotation of the folder as in claim 16, in combination with the features of claim 12. As noted above, the art of record does not disclose a protrusion that is selectively received in one of two slots. The Y-shaped protrusion and socket of Murray does not provide the function of the slots recited in claims 15 and 16 regardless of the axial orientation of the Y-shaped protrusion. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 are allowable over the art of record.

New claim 18 depends from claim 12 to recite that the mechanism further comprises a button mounted on one of the side hinge arms for separating the hinge protrusion from the first or second hinge holes. The art of record either standing alone or in combination do not disclose or suggest a button for separating the protrusion from the hinge holes as recited in claim 18. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable over the art of record.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, claims 1-18 are allowable over the art of record. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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